

60, High Street,  
Neyland.

January 1943.



To the Chairman and Members of the Neyland Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fourth interim report of the war ( which takes the place of the annual report of peace time) for the year 1942.

General

I referred to the billeting of troops in my last report, this is being done up to the present, but in smaller numbers than before so that no special trouble arises from the public health point of view.

Many of the civilians originally billeted here have now gone, workmen and their families have now taken most of the available accommodation with the result that a large number of houses have been, and still are taxed to full capacity.

Very few people are now permanently unemployed, and as a result one sees very little want.

Water.

This subject has caused grave concern on numerous occasions and is still a grave concern to the Council, I have frequently pointed out in pre-war days and since, the total inadequacy of the storage capacity of the town, this plus an increased population, and the warnings of the Milford Haven U.D.C. that we must use loss, is likely to be a grave danger to both the health of the town and to the efficiency of the fire fighting services, and I would once more urge on you the urgency of obtaining increased storage at the earliest possible moment.

A.R.P.

The position as regards equipment of the first aid point has improved slightly, more equipment is now available, but the building allotted to this important purpose, is also used as a billet for troops, which is most unsatisfactory, obviously the place can not be kept in a serviceable condition as a first aid point, when used as sleeping quarters, and much valuable time would be lost, in the event of an air raid, in removing bunks, and bringing in, and unpacking first aid equipment, I would therefore suggest that you try to obtain a building for first aid only, with the co-operation of the County Council. I am no happier about the preparations for dealing with the effects of chemical warfare than a year ago, I think the subject requires great attention from the County Council, and is far from satisfactory as it now is.

Health and Infectious Diseases.

Influenza.

No recurrence of the epidemic form occurred, and we enjoyed a fairly healthy year.

Measles.

Measles was prevalent during the year, in particular the last quarter, in common with most of the country, forty one cases were notified, but doubtless many more occurred which were not brought to my notice, most of the cases I saw were of a very mild nature, and few were complicated.

### Diphtheria and Immunisation.

In contrast to the year 1941, only two cases were notified, which suggests that the drive to obtain the maximum number of immunisations may have borne some fruit. During the year some 90 children received the full course of immunisation, and as far as present statistics go about 74% of the children under five years old have been immunised, this is I think a very satisfactory figure, as the total number under five includes children under one year which have not been done, if we only took the population from four to five years, we must have obtained almost the ideal of 100%, the children in the group from five to fifteen are not so easily estimated, because so far no machinery exists for getting the population in this age group, but I see no reason to suppose that it would not be almost as good as that for the younger children, we hope to go on with immunisation, as soon as a new group are matured enough in occasional clinics as before.

### Tuberculosis.

Last year it was my unpleasant duty to call your attention to the increase of this disease, this year the position is reversed, not since 1936 have we touched such a low figure of new cases, namely two, this is a most satisfactory state of affairs in the fourth year of war, when with the restrictions on diet, and in many cases long hours of work, black out entailing a limitation to ventilation, and less sleeping accommodation due to the increased population, which is part of the national war effort's necessary demands on the people.

One case of Puerperal pyrexia, one case of whooping cough, one of scarlet fever, and four of pneumonia were notified.

### Milk.

Last autumn Councillor Nicholas, the Sanitary Inspector and myself attended a county conference on this subject at Haverfordwest, and I for one was surprised to learn that so little had been done in many districts to ensure that the milk sold to the public was of a reasonable standard of purity, the final suggestions of this conference were that the methods we have adopted for the past fourteen years should be used, i.e. periodic sampling of milk with laboratory examination of samples, supervision of dairy, and cowshed and the co-operation of neighbouring local authority's officials in drive to obtain clean milk. As I have pointed out the methods suggested are those we have tried, and found to work well.

Samples have been taken as usual during the year, and are on the whole fairly satisfactory, a few give us a considerable amount of anxiety, and the worst point in this is, that it always appears to be the same vendors whose samples are unsatisfactory, which suggests that they are not doing all that could be done to improve the standard of milk they sell, this is a very serious matter, one which demands rigid treatment, if persisted in, so far I have always aimed at the standard of milk sold in Neyland being kept at as high a level as possible, and have managed to attain good results with the co-operation of the vendors, I do not intend that a dirtier milk shall be retailed in future, and I may have to ask you to assist with more drastic measures, if some vendors are not willing to do their best to obtain clean milk.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

J.A.K. DOUGLAS.

Medical Officer of Health.



To the Chairman & Members of the  
NEYLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my abbreviated war-time Annual Report for the year ended 31st Dec. 1943.

1. HEALTH DURING THE YEAR. The year 1943 was a particularly healthy one up to November when, in common with the rest of the Country and, in fact, Europe, we had a lot of influenza. This outbreak reached the proportions of an epidemic but as far as Neyland was concerned the infection was of a very mild type and of shorter duration than the usual Influenza epidemics, hence, not only were complications few but the period of average incapacity was much reduced.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The number of cases notified is as follows:

Pneumonia	5.	Diphtheria	4.	Scarlet Fever	1.
Measles	3.	Whooping Cough	1.	Tuberculosis	9.

Of the four cases of Diphtheria, none had been previously immunised. Two cases of Tuberculosis were transfers from other Districts and three were non-pulmonary cases. I still feel that the incidence of this disease is high and is a cause for anxiety, but the outbreak of War has always been accompanied by an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified, probably due to overcrowding; movements of the population and difficulties of diet and I fear we cannot hope for much improvement until these factors return to more normal conditions and peace again removes these unnatural causes.

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Some more children have received treatment during the year but I do not propose to deal with percentages as the only available figures are incorrect. The method of obtaining these figures are, by order of the Ministry of Health, to get the numbers of children in the two age groups from the Local Food Office, i.e. The Milford & District Food Office, and as they seem to have very little local knowledge of the boundaries of the Neyland Urban area they often include numbers of children who reside in the Haverfordwest Rural area with the result that most misleading statistics are produced. For example, the number of children resident in the Urban area on 31st Dec. 1942 was 319, yet the records of immunisation revealed that 323 of this age group had been immunised. In July 1943 the Food Office gave the number of this age group at 792, a truly wonderful increase in the population and should, I think, if correct, be the best response in the Country to the Government's appeal for larger families. In this connection I would like to mention that I experience great difficulty in obtaining replies to my letters to the Food Office. The returns which I requested in good time and which were necessary for my official Returns to the Welsh Board of Health due on 21st January last are not yet to hand. This Return is still held up.

4. WATER. Since you decided to terminate the supply of large quantities of Water to the G.W.R. the position of the Town Supply should show an improvement and I think the 'dry periods' to which we had become accustomed should be very rare. I am pleased to learn you have agreed on the construction of another reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity and hope the day is not far off when it will be an established fact.

5. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. Here again you are alive to the urgent needs of the Town and although you cannot carry it out at present I congratulate you on the attempts you are making to have the scheme earmarked for priority after the War.

6. PUBLIC CLEANSING. This work is now done by direct labour with your own Lorry. The cleansing of Streets etc. is, I think, in the main





satisfactory but I feel it is my duty to draw your attention to the apparently careless way in which the household refuse, and earth closets, are dealt with by your men. One has only to walk along the back lanes in the early morning to see containers only half emptied and some of the contents spilled on the lane. True, this is probably cleaned up by a man with a barrow later in the day, but a little extra care at the time would render a lot of this work superfluous and be a contribution to better health.

7. MILK. Since the more frequent taking of samples has been adopted by you a great improvement has been achieved, as is shown by the fact that of 34 samples taken in September, 38.23% were in category A, and in the December month of 35 samples, 85.71% were in category A. These figures speak for themselves and require little comment but I feel I should point out that the offenders are the same producers that have failed time and again to produce clean milk for the past 15 years during which I have had the honour to be your M.O.H. It seems very hard lines on the Producers who could, and would, reach 100% category A standard, to have the standard of the Towns' supply as a whole dragged down by people who obviously make little attempt to improve the standard of milk they sell to a trusting public.

8. STAFF CHANGES. During the year Mr. Lusher, who for some time acted as Sanitary Inspector left, but not before he had proved himself great ability. He left a monument to his energy in the Surface Shelters, for much of the planning and supervision during construction of which he was largely responsible. His place has been taken by Mr. A.C. James, to whom I extend a hearty welcome in his new post. Mr. James is a man of long experience in Sanitary affairs and has started in his new surroundings with commendable energy.

9. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. In previous Reports I referred to difficulty in getting Infectious cases admitted to Hospital. This has not been my experience lately, probably due to the County Council have acquired Begelly House as a war-time Isolation Hospital. For non-infectious cases the County Hospital is available but owing to having to deal with Emergency Medical Services cases the available accommodation is, at times, limited. No emergency case is ever refused admission but cases of a more chronic nature often have to wait a long time before being able to secure a bed.

10. VENEREAL DISEASES. While this is a matter which concerns the County Council directly, I think it should be referred to here in the light of the vast publicity which has been devoted to this subject. Though War conditions have increased the spread of these diseases throughout the Country, to the best of my knowledge there is no marked increase in your area. However, this may not be the case when large numbers of persons are returned to their home Town after the War and I think the present is the time to ensure adequate facilities for treatment, if necessary. In the past persons suffering from V.D. were sent to Swansea and treated in a specially fitted clinic at the General Hospital by a Specialist in this branch of medicine, such cost being borne by the County Council. With the anticipated increase in V.D. which follows War the Ministry of Health desired more convenient facilities and more Clinics etc. The Pembrokeshire County Council's reply to this was to appoint a number of General Practitioners, most of whom claim no special knowledge of the subject, and have few facilities at their disposal, and to notify publicly that persons who are suffering from V.D. should consult these gentlemen. This means these patients have to attend usually the Surgery of the Doctor concerned and mix with all other types of cases. The Doctor also runs a risk of transferring infection to other cases particularly when he attends midwifery cases. I urge the need of a Clinic for this purpose alone attended by a Nurse specially trained in V.D. and under the supervision of a visiting Specialist. I know this will not be so easily accessible to all patients, but surely it is better to have to travel further to attend a properly equipped and staffed clinic, where expert treatment would be obtained, than to have a nominal service on the doorstep. In my opinion the County Council is not discharging its duty by side-stepping this issue as it has done.



11. FIRST AID POINT & CLEANSING CENTRE. The First Aid Point, it is alleged, has been up-graded, which means in effect, the supply of more dressing bandages, blankets etc. If we are fortunate enough to never need it this will no doubt prove satisfactory, but woe betide us if we have to deal with a number of casualties with the equipment supplied. Much credit is due to the W.V.S. for the excellent way they have taken on the First Aid Point duties and the amount of practise they have put in. Most of these women are running their Homes, knitting for the troops and many of them are also responsible for the Services Canteen. How they get all their activities into the time at their disposal is a mystery and I feel that the Town, as well as the members of H.M.Forces, owe a great deal to the "Green Angels" as they have been described.


CLEANSING CENTRE. Nothing has been done to improve the original primitive arrangements at this Centre and I do not now expect they will ever be attended to. These matters of A.R.P. seem to have been very successfully passed from County Councils to the Ministry of Health and back again for the past 4 or 5 years, with neither doing much but just enough to bluff the public into the belief that if nothing was done it either would be, or if not it was the fault of some higher Authority.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. K. Douglas.

Medical Officer of Health.



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2.344 - possibly too high a figure, but the actual one may well lie between 2.020 and 2.344.

Gentlemen, I have the honour to be

Your humble Servant,

J. A. K. Douglas.

Medical Officer of Health.

